

REMARKS

In the Office Action, a Restriction Requirement was put forward between Group I, claims 1-8, Group II, claims 9-13 and Group III, claims 14-16. Applicant hereby elects Group I corresponding to claims 1-8. This election is made without traverse.

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to clarify that the ratio of the free silanol group is of the silica particles.

Reconsideration and further examination are now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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